(b) Nakoda underground (UG) mine was closed due to following reasons:

(i) The working of Nakoda UG Mine extended very near to the fault, dykes and danger was apprehended from water logged workings on the other side of the fault.

(ii) Working places got exhausted because of geo-mining conditions.

(c) to (e) WCL has no plan for re-opening Nakoda UG Mine. The balance reserve of Nakoda mine will be exploited by opencast through the existing Ghughus opencast project (OCP).

Manipulation by anti-social gangs in the movement of coal

1065. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of rampant manipulation by anti-social gangs in the rake allotment/movement of coal from Eastern Coalfields Limited and Central Coalfields Limited;

(b) whether coal traders/bulk buyers of coal in Kolkata are threatened by such gangs to pay up protection money for their supplies of coal; and

(c) what steps are being taken to coordinate the efforts of Central Industrial Security Force and the RPF to ensure smooth movement of coal from pitheads to destination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) No such information has been received.

(c) The responsibility of coal company is upto loading of rakes only and the responsibility for protection of rakes after loading lies with consumer/Railways. As per information from Railway Board,

Railway Yards where the coal rakes are kept after drawing out from the Collieries are guarded by the armed Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Railway Protection Special Force (RPSF) staff. Vulnerable Sections are provided with armed patrolling and in case of need the coal rakes are being escorted. There is co-ordination between RPF and the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and also liaison is being maintained with the State Police and raids are being conducted against the criminals.

Production in South Eastern coalfields of Raigarh

†1066. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of mines located in South East coalfields of Raigarh district;

(b) the mine-wise total production and sale during last three years;

(c) the mine-wise expenditure incurred; and

(d) the details of expansion plan of these mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Three mines *viz.* Chhal underground (UG), Dharam UG & Baroud opencast (OC) of South Eastern Coalfields Limited are located in Raigarh District.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.